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Title: Need to pay revised wages to Anganwadi workers and helpers.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (SABARKANTHA): Sir, this is to draw the attention of the Government to the issue of the Anganwadi workers and helpers. While presenting the Budget for the financial year 2008-09, the hon. Finance Minister announced a wage increase for the Anganwadi workers and helpers to Rs. 500/- and Rs. 250/- respectively. But it is a pity that even after passing of nine months since then, this enhanced wage amount has not yet been paid to thousands of Anganwadi workers and helpers in various States. I may also mention here that the Department of Women and Child Welfare has, in fact, issued a circular and written letters to various State Governments last month in this regard...(*Interruptions*) I would like to remind my friend here that the Government of Gujarat has still not paid this enhanced wage

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* Not recorded.

amount to these workers despite the fact that a sum of Rs. 40 crore has been released to the State Government of Gujarat for this purpose of paying the enhanced wage amount and also the arrears.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD): Sir, the Government of Gujarat has already disbursed the amount, the only thing...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : That was the increased amount that the Chief Minister announced during the time of the Assembly elections...(*Interruptions*) Sir, what they are trying to defend is that the Government of Gujarat had made a special announcement during the time of Assembly elections in this regard and that amount has paid. It is not the amount which was announced by the hon. Finance Minister during the Budget speech. This is the case in almost all the States.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister for Women and Child Development to compel the various State Governments to pay this money. The eyes of the Gujarat Government are now set on the forthcoming elections. They would pay this amount at the time of the elections and claim that it is their Government which has paid the money. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister for Women and Child Development to compel the various State Governments to pay this enhanced wage amount to the Anganwadi workers and helpers as announced in the Budget.